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Agenda item 107

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 29th and 33rd meetings, on 13 and 22 December 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.29 and 33).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/59/415) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/600).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.29

4. At the 33rd meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2006-2007" (A/C.5/59/L.29), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Austria.

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5. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee orally revised the draft resolution by, in paragraph 6, replacing the words "a preliminary estimate of ___ million dollars" with the words "a preliminary estimate of $3,621,900,000", and, in paragraph 10, replacing the words "namely, at ___ million dollars" with the words "namely, at $27,200,000".

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.29 as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

B. Draft decision A/C.5/59/L.31

7. At its 33rd meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration" (A/C.5/59/L.31), submitted by the Chairman.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/59/L.31 without a vote (see para. 10).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

9. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2006-2007

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2006-2007[1] and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. *Reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(a) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

3. *Also reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

4. *Further reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

5. *Notes* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of $3,621,900,000 at revised 2004-2005 rates;

[1] A/59/415.

[2] See A/59/600.

7. *Decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

8. *Decides also* that the priorities for the biennium 2006-2007 shall be the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of his preliminary indicative estimates contained in the proposed budget outline, to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 8 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;

10. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely, at $27,200,000, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

10. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Questions deferred for future consideration

The General Assembly decides to defer to its resumed session consideration of the following agenda items and related documents:

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Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

(a) Second annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan (A/59/441);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on plans for three additional conference rooms and viable solutions for allowing natural light into the rooms (A/58/556);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on viable options to ensure sufficient parking space (A/58/712);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of possible funding arrangements for the capital master plan (A/58/729);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on cooperation with the city and state of New York related to the capital master plan (A/58/779);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the biennium ended 31 December 2003 (A/59/161);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the United Nations capital master plan for the period August 2003 through July 2004 (A/59/420);

(h) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/556);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, ad litem judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and ad litem judges for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/C.5/59/2 and Corr.1);

(j) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/557);

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Administration of justice at the United Nations

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the management review of the appeals process and measures to shorten the period for the disposal of cases and

procedures related to the Joint Appeals Board, the Panel of Counsel, the Administrative Law Unit and the secretariats of the Joint Appeals Board and the Joint Disciplinary Committee (A/59/408);

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice in the Secretariat (A/59/449);

(m) Report of the Secretary-General on the role and work of the Panels on Discrimination and Other Grievances (A/59/414);

(n) Annual report on the outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board during 2001 and 2002 (A/58/300);

(o) Report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice in the Secretariat: outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board during 2002 and 2003 (A/59/70);

(p) Comprehensive report of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal on its activities (A/58/680);

(q) Letter dated 18 November 2003 from the President of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/58/16);

(r) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Administration of justice: harmonization of the statutes of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the International Labour Organization Administrative Tribunal" (A/59/280 and Corr.1);

(s) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Administration of justice: harmonization of the statutes of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the International Labour Organization Administrative Tribunal" (A/59/280/Add.1);

(t) Report of the Secretary-General on the possibility of the financial independence of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal from the Office of Legal Affairs (A/59/78);

(u) Note by the Secretary-General on compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal (A/C.5/59/12).